

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 542

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to commend Blake McMeans for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated their lives to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Blake McMeans is one such estimable person who always evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, once a thriving young tennis star, ranked number four in the nation, Blake McMeans's hopes and dreams were dashed on a cold winter's night in 1994, when he drove home while intoxicated and crashed his vehicle into a tree; and

WHEREAS, after suffering excruciating physical and mental trauma, Mr. McMeans decided to turn his personal tragedy into a life-saving message and founded the "Blake McMeans Promise Tour Organization"; and

WHEREAS, a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to his community, Blake McMeans and his highly-influential foundation utilize pioneering, evidence-based methods to educate youth about the dire consequences associated with high-risk drinking, enlighten society on the challenges and special needs of persons with physical handicaps, and inspire Tennesseans to make better life choices, and

WHEREAS, the stirring Blake McMeans Promise Tour Organization Mission Statement asserts, "I want people to live...live to serve...live to offer hope...live to receive help...live to make good choices...live a life that inspires others and yourself"; and

WHEREAS, his touching story has launched numerous collaborative efforts throughout our great state and empowered thousands of young people to become responsible, mature leaders dedicated to living life to the fullest; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McMeans is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State" and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Blake McMeans for his laudable service to the good people of Tennessee, salute his strength and determination in the face of adversity, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.